Message

From: Watson, Jim (Mayor/Maire) [Jim.Watson@ottawa.ca]
Sent: 2/3/2022 11:54:14 PM
To: =City Council [CityCouncil@ottawa.ca]; =City Councillors Assistants [CityCouncillorsAssistants@ottawa.ca]
CC: Kanellakos, Steve [Steve.Kanellakos@ottawa.ca]; Box, Steve [Steve.Box@ottawa.ca]; Ayotte, Kim [Kim.Ayotte@ottawa.ca]; O'Connor, M. Rick [Rick.OConnor@ottawa.ca]; White, David [David.White@ottawa.ca]; Sloly, Peter (Police) [SlolyP@ottawapolice.ca]
Subject: Update on our demonstration efforts

Dear Council colleagues,

I wanted to provide you with a quick update on the engagement I have had with our federal and provincial partners this week, as well as other stakeholders, regarding the occupation of our downtown core by the convoy.

As you know, I had a productive discussion with Prime Minister Trudeau on Monday. He assured me that the federal government would be there to provide resources and support the efforts of our OPS officers on the ground. This aligns with similar discussions that Chief Sloly has had with RCMP Commissioner Brenda Lucki, who has so far supplemented the federal authority's presence as requested.

I have also had constructive discussions with provincial Minister of Finance Peter Bethlenfalvy, as well as the federal President of the Treasury Board Mona Fortier, regarding supports for our businesses and employees whose livelihoods are being severely impacted each and every day that this occupation continues. They have both been receptive to my plea and their teams are actively assessing what can be done to help.

This morning, the City Solicitor and I had a discussion with the team from Go Fund Me to request that the funds raised so far remain frozen until the end of the occupation. They have heard our case and have been made aware of the unlawful acts that have been committed as part of the protest. They are evaluating the situation from a number of angles and have assured us that the funds will remain frozen for several days while they conduct further due diligence related to their terms of use and community guidelines.

In the last hour, I had a very good discussion with federal Public Safety Minister Marco Mendicino, where I reiterated our City's call for additional resources to support our officers responding to this demonstration on the ground. He assured me that our request for assistance was being given the highest consideration by Commissioner Lucki, and he offered his ongoing support until we see an end to the occupation.

A number of colleagues have suggested to me, and I have agreed, that a Special Council meeting be called to discuss the impact of the truck convoy demonstration on our residents and businesses. The Clerk will be issuing a Notice of Special meeting before the weekend for the meeting to be held at 1pm on Monday, February 7. As the situation remains fluid, times are subject to change based on the availability of officials.

I trust this information is helpful. I will aim to keep you apprised of our other engagement efforts as they evolve in the coming days.

Sincerely,

Jim Watson
Mayor